

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1006

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the University of Tennessee men's basketball team, 2022 Southeastern Conference Champions.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary student athletes who have attained the pinnacle of competition, thus bringing honor and acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee Volunteers, coached by the legendary Rick Barnes, recently won the 2022 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Tournament Championship, the program's first SEC title in forty-three years; and

WHEREAS, the 2021-2022 Vols distinguished themselves as one of the most accomplished and celebrated teams in the program's history with their 65-50 victory against Texas A&M in the SEC Tournament Championship game; and

WHEREAS, finishing the 2021-2022 season with a 26-7 record, 14-4 in SEC play, the Vols endured a tough start in SEC play, losing three road games in the first month; however, the team got rolling in late January and February, winning twelve of their final thirteen regular-season SEC games before running through the SEC Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee led wire-to-wire in the win, building a 14-0 lead in the opening minutes and never leading by less than five points after that; the Vols' offense was fueled by a blistering outside shooting performance, as Santiago Vescovi, Josiah-Jordan James, and Kennedy Chandler combined for eleven of Tennessee's twelve three-pointers; overall, the team shot forty-three percent from deep and thirty-nine percent from the field; and

WHEREAS, the Vols took a 29-22 lead into halftime and proceeded to outscore Texas A&M 24-16 in the first ten minutes of the second half; that stretch was bolstered by nine-straight

points by Santiago Vescovi via two consecutive three-pointers and three makes at the free-throw line; and

WHEREAS, with around nine minutes left, Josiah-Jordan James went on a scoring run of his own by hitting back-to-back three-pointers, the second of which broke a nearly three-minute Tennessee scoring drought; and

WHEREAS, with their conference title win over Texas A&M, the Tennessee Vols will advance as the No. 3 seed in the 2022 NCAA Tournament, their fourth trip in four years; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's remarkable SEC championship game performance earned the team's players several individual accolades; freshman guard Kennedy Chandler was named SEC Tournament Most Valuable Player, and Josiah-Jordan James and Santiago Vescovi both earned All-Tournament honors; and

WHEREAS, this memorable team of extraordinary student athletes earned the respect and admiration of sports fans across the State of Tennessee and the nation not only by showcasing their prowess on the hardwood but also by standing as a unified example of teamwork, dedication, and selflessness; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2021-2022 Tennessee men's basketball team are Kennedy Chandler, Santiago Vescovi, Josiah-Jordan James, Zakai Zeigler, Olivier Nkamhoua, John Fulkerson, Uros Plavsic, Justin Powell, Brandon Huntley-Hatfield, Victor Bailey, Jr., Jonas Aidoo, Quentin Diboundje, Brock Jancek, Kent Gilbert, Jahmai Mashack, Isaiah Sulack, and Handje Tamba; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Vols enjoyed the astute leadership and guidance of Head Coach Rick Barnes; his outstanding staff includes Associate Head Coach Michael Schwartz, Assistant Coach Justin Gainey, Assistant Coach Rod Clark, Director of Men's Basketball Sports Performance Garrett Medenwald, Director of Basketball Operations Mary-Carter Eggert, Athletic

Trainer Chad Newman, Director of Player Development Bryan Lentz, Director of Student-Athlete Development Ken McDonald, and Video Coordinator Luke Schapker; and

WHEREAS, the young men who comprise the 2021-2022 University of Tennessee men's basketball team stand as leaders on their campus and role models in their community, and they are richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Rick Barnes and the University of Tennessee Volunteers men's basketball team on their recent capture of the Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship and extend to them our best wishes for their continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.